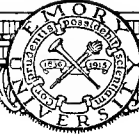


A FULL ACCOUNT
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CAPTURE AND WONDERFUL ESCAPE
OF
GEN. JOHN H. MORGAN
WITH
CAPTAIN T. HENRY HINES.

Thrilling and Interesting Incidents.

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ESCAPE OF GENERAL MORGAN.



CHAPTER I.

MORGAN'S EXPEDITION INTO KENTUCKY, INDIANA AND OHIO.—BATTLE OF GREEN RIVER BRIDGE AND LEBANON, KENTUCKY.

The bold and daring expedition of General Morgan to cross the Ohio and invade the enemy's country, stands out in grand relief as one of the most heroic adventures of the age.

The celebrated, brave and daring Captain T. Henry Hines, who commanded Colonel Dick Morgan's regiment in the late expedition to Ohio in July last, planned and executed the escape of General Morgan from the Penitentiary at Columbus, Ohio. Captain Hines is a very young man, not over twenty-three years of age, has a fine intellectual head, florid complexion, dark brown hair and eyes, wears a light moustache, and would be considered by the ladies very handsome. Captain Hines gives the following particulars of the expedition to Ohio, and the capture and escape of General Morgan, which is one of the most remarkable feats of the age.

The expedition left Cumberland county, on the 1st July, 1863, and crossed the Cumberland river at Burksville. At Green River Bridge, Kentucky, where the enemy was in large force and fortified in stockades, our cavalry attacked, and after a severe fight, were compelled to fall back. The expedition then proceeded to Lebanon, Kentucky, and on the fourth of July, captured the garrison and destroyed immense quantities of stores. Passing through Bardstown, they struck off for the Ohio river, which they reached at Brandenburg, Kentucky, on the eighth of July. Here we captured two steamers, and crossed the Ohio with twenty-five hundred men. The command then moved on Corrydon, Indiana, sixteen miles from the river, where the ene-

my, two thousand strong, was entrenched. After a short conflict we defeated the enemy, captured one thousand prisoners, with their arms, and one piece of artillery.

At the news of General Morgan's approach, the wildest consternation spread throughout the country. Skirmishing now took place nearly every day, with the enemy's forces, until the command reached a point on the Ohio nearly opposite Gallipolis. The whole country had risen in arms for the capture of General Morgan, and reinforcements were sent from every available point, besides the gunboats on the river, to intercept Morgan, if possible. The facilities afforded the enemy by his railroads, telegraphs and gunboats, made Morgan's position daily more critical. The design to strike for the interior was frustrated by the advantages the enemy had in telegraphing Morgan's advance from point to point. It was therefore determined to keep up the Ohio, and strike some of the fords, to enable Morgan to cross to the Virginia side.

When, however, the command arrived near Gallipolis, opposite the Virginia shore, on the morning of the eighteenth of July, it was found that the enemy occupied, with a force of over three thousand, a narrow pass in a chain of hills, which extended for three miles, and which was the only passage left for Morgan to reach the river side. It was a desperate undertaking, but the passage had to be forced. The enemy lined the sides of the ridges, keeping up a brisk fire, and at the same time felled trees to block up the way. Captain Hines, at this time, was in command of the advance regiment of Colonel Dick Morgan, who was unwell. Nothing daunted, our brave boys cut away the trees as they impeded our progress, and kept up a raking fire on the enemy, who gradually fell back, and thus they finally succeeded in getting out of the gap. On the same evening, the command reached Buffington Island, where they found the enemy entrenched, one thousand strong, commanding the ford; but it was determined to camp for the night, in order to rest the men and horses, and attack the enemy the next morning.

CHAPTER II.

COL. DUKE DEFEATS THE ABOLITION INFIDEL CAVALRY UNDER GEN. JUDAH, BUT IS COMPELLED TO SURRENDER ON BEING SURROUNDED BY THE OVERWHELMING FORCES OF THE ENEMY.—GEN. MORGAN ESCAPES, BUT IS FINALLY OBLIGED TO SURRENDER.

At daylight on the nineteenth, Colonel Duke's brigade attacked the enemy, drove them out of their works, captured several hundred prisoners, with two pieces of artillery, and obtained possession of the ford. Unfortunately, at this time, Gen. Judah's division of Federal cavalry came up, and compelled our command to lose time by an engagement. Judah was immediately attacked by Duke's brigade, which, after a short conflict, completely routed the abolition cavalry with the loss of many of their officers of rank, among them Major McCook, whose brother was killed by our scouts in Alabama. Soon after, the abolition infantry made their appearance in large force in our front and on our left flank, who opened a heavy fire, the Yankee gunboats, which had also come up, shelling us at the same time. Notwithstanding this concentrated fire, the gallant Duke held the enemy in check for some time, to enable General Morgan to retreat with the balance of his command, and make their escape up the river. Duke was gradually falling back when the enemy's cavalry charged us, taking possession of the ford. Being surrounded by an overwhelming force, Duke was compelled to surrender—Colonel Dick Morgan and Captain Hines also being taken prisoners.

General Morgan, with the remainder of his command, in the meantime, had proceeded up the river, followed by the gunboats, which shelled our men as often as they could. The command succeeded in reaching Belleville on the 20th, where they came upon a force of 1,500 of the enemy, who surrendered without firing a gun. Here we obtained a supply of arms and a large amount of ammunition. General Morgan then attempted to cross his command at Belleville, by fording the river, and had succeeded in crossing some three hundred men, and was himself half way over the river, when he discovered the gunboats coming up to cut them off. Finding that it was too late to cross the other portion of his command, he nobly determined to return and share the fate of his men. General Morgan hastily turned back, but neither drooping in spirit nor sinking in heart.

Gaining the shore unharmed by the enemy's shell, he rallied his men, of whom five hundred were now only left, and dashed forward to the Pennsylvania line. With his men worn down by fatigue, and many unable to ride, he was overtaken by a superior force, when within only eight miles of the Pennsylvania line, and on the 26th July surrendered to General Shackelford. The terms of surrender were, that the officers should retain their side arms and all private property, and that they, with the men, should be paroled and immediately sent through the Federal lines. General Morgan was immediately taken to the headquarters of General Burnside, at Cincinnati, who refused to recognize the conditions of the surrender, and ordered the seizure of all private property. Officers and men were accordingly searched and robbed of everything but what they managed to conceal. The privates were sent to Camp Douglas, and a large number of officers were sent to Johnson's Island, and afterwards removed to the Penitentiary at Alleghany City. General Morgan, with seventy officers, including his staff, were conveyed to the Penitentiary at Columbus, where they arrived on the thirtieth of September and first of October, and were turned over to the State authorities.

CHAPTER III.

THE PRISONERS ARE CARRIED TO THE COLUMBUS PENITENTIARY.—THEIR TREATMENT.—CAPT. HINES PLANS THE ESCAPE OF GEN. MORGAN.—DESCRIPTION OF THEIR CELLS OF IMPRISONMENT.—HOW THEIR ESCAPE WAS EFFECTED.

On arriving at the Penitentiary the officers were treated the same as convicts, with the exception that they were not made to dress in convict clothes. They were stripped and put in a tub of dirty water, one by one, and went through the scrubbing process, some thirty men being washed in the same water without being changed. Their beards were then all cut off and shaved clean, and their hair was cut so close that it amounted to shaving their heads. General Morgan suffered the same treatment. For the first two days they were put on convict fare of bread and water, but after that they received the usual allowance of cold meat.

The cells, in which they were confined, consisted of solid stone masonry, about six feet long, six feet high, and three feet wide. Morgan's party were confined in the east wing of the Penitentiary, the cells of which faced a narrow passage or hall, some sixty paces in length, and from twelve to fourteen feet wide, the south side of the hall being a solid wall. The cells were composed of five tiers, one over the other, with wooden steps to ascend to them. Morgan and his men occupied the first and second tiers only, no other prisoners being in this portion of the building. The General occupied a cell in the second range, and Captain Hines occupied one about the centre of the first tier.

On the third of November, Captain Hines matured the plan of escape, which he communicated to one of his fellow-prisoners, Captain Sam Taylor, of Colonel A. R. Johnson's 10th Kentucky Cavalry. Hines suggested that, from the dryness of the cells, there must be an air chamber beneath to prevent the moisture from rising, and that by removing the cement and brick in the cells they might strike the cavity of the chamber beneath, when by undermining the foundation they could effect their escape. Taylor at once consented to the plan, which was communicated to General Morgan and four others, Captains J. C. Bennett and Hockersmith, of the 10th Kentucky, Ralph Sheldon, of the 2nd Kentucky, and Augustus Magee.

Captain Hines having procured two case knives, which had been sent from the hospital with food for some of our sick men, he work was commenced in Captain Hines' cell on the fourth of November, he having most generously assumed the responsibility, so that in case of discovery he alone would suffer the punishment of being incarcerated in the dungeon. Captain Hines detailed two men at a time to work in his room during the period the other prisoners promenaded the hall for exercise. They were relieved every hour, and worked from four to five hours per day. Hines kept strict guard himself, and established a telegraph system of communication—one knock on the door of the cell was the signal to commence work; two knocks to cease, and three knocks the alarm to stop and come out. As the work progressed in the different cells, the men hid the cement and bricks in their beds. They had to contend against the most complete system of guards, who were composed of

both civil and military, and who, being jealous, watched each other and our own prisoners' movements with the greatest scrutiny. Besides this, there were privileged convicts, who also watched our men and listened to their conversations.

Having first removed the cement and brick for a space of eighteen inches square, digging through six inches of cement and six layers of brick in each cell, they struck at last the air chamber, which was sixty feet long, three feet wide, and three feet high. They now removed the rubbish of the cement and bricks from their cells to the air chamber, keeping the holes concealed by their beds. Their Herculean task had now only commenced. From the air chamber they worked through twelve feet of solid masonry, fourteen feet of "grouting," or fine stone and cement, and five feet of gravelled earth, which led them into the yard of the Penitentiary. The work in the seven cells was, to their great joy, completed on the twenty-sixth of November, having occupied twenty-eight days. General Morgan was now informed of the fact, and himself examined the work, expressing his great surprise and delight to Captain Hines.

CHAPTER IV

DIFFICULTIES ATTENDING THEIR ESCAPE.—HOW SURMOUNTED.—THE PLAN FOR THE RELEASE OF GEN. MORGAN.—SIGNAL FOR THE DEPARTURE OF THE PRISONERS.—THE GUARDS AND THE WATCH-DOGS.—THE SCALING OF THE PRISON WALLS.—THEY LAND SAFE OUTSIDE.

It was now agreed by the parties to effect their escape on the night of the twenty-seventh. But here another obstacle was to be surmounted as great, and more dangerous, than the one just accomplished. The wall surrounding the Penitentiary yard was thirty-five feet high, and this had to be scaled. Besides, it was well known that several sentinels were on post in the yard, and that two or three most terrible dogs were unchained at night. Then again, how was General Morgan to be gotten out of his cell, which was in the second tier, and the turnkey locked all the cell doors at five o'clock, P. M? But if love laughs at locksmiths, Morgan and his men laugh at all difficulties, and Yankee penitentiaries. Calvin Morgan, the General's brother,

was at once set to work to make a rope about seventy feet long out of his bed ticking, and a hook was made out of a small iron poker to attach to the end of the rope. At five o'clock on the evening of the twenty-seventh, the prisoners were all ordered to their cells. General Morgan had been accustomed to reading at night in his cell, by a candle, which was the only privilege allowed, all lights being ordered to be put out by nine o'clock. That evening Colonel Dick Morgan took the place of the General, they exchanging cells. When the turnkey came around, seeing a man with a book before his face reading, he took him for the General, and locked the door, thinking all right.

It was arranged to make their escape at twenty-five minutes after midnight, knowing that the train left Columbus for Cincinnati at 1.25 in the morning. Captain Sam Taylor, having a watch, it was agreed that at the given time he should descend into the air chamber, and passing under the cells, touch each man, as the signal to come forth, in order that no noise should be made, as it was so still at night, that even the drop of a pin could be heard, and might give alarm. It was well known that the guards examined the cells every two hours, and to prevent the discovery of the absence of the prisoners, they shaped their bed-clothes so as to resemble the sleeping forms of men, before taking a farewell of their prison-houses. At the appointed time and signal, each man, holding his breath, descended into the air-chamber, and crawling through the hole made in the foundation, soon gained the yard. They breathed again the free air of heaven. It was a dark, rainy night. Three sentinels stood within ten paces of them. They stole along as if treading on air, groping their way towards the wall. Just at this moment, one of the huge, fierce dogs, which would not let even his keeper come into the yard at night, came running toward them with a low growl, and approaching within ten feet of them, barked once. Then, as if his instinct taught him they were rebels trying to escape, even the dog, more faithful to his country and the sureties of the great compact, now broken forever, than the abolition infidels, turned away and held his peace. Was it not a special providence? They reached the wall in safety at the East gate.

It was a double gate. One outside, of stone and iron, and the other inside, made of wooden uprights, with open spaces

between. The gate was thirty-feet high. Taylor, who had charge of the rope, now wrapped a stone in a cloth, to prevent it from making a noise, and tying it to one end of the rope, threw it over the top of the inside gate, the weight of the stone drawing down the rope. He then secured the hook to one of the uprights, and the party climbed up, one by one, to the top of the gate, and then easily gained the top of the wall. The rope was then hauled up, and attached to the iron railing on the main wall, and the parties descended. Taylor reached the ground first, and the General next. They had descended into the open street, within thirty steps of a guard, near a bright gas light. They were free.

CHAPTER V

ARRIVAL OF MORGAN AND HINES AT THE RAILROAD DEPOT—HOW THE MONEY IS PROCURED FOR THEIR PASSAGE—THEIR ESCAPE AND ARRIVAL AT CINCINNATI—THE PASSAGE OF THE OHIO RIVER—SAFE ARRIVAL AT COVINGTON, KENTUCKY.

It had been previously determined that on reaching the outer wall, the parties should separate, Morgan and Hines together, and the others to shape their course for themselves. Thus they parted. Hines and the General proceeded at once to the depot to purchase their tickets for Cincinnati. But lo! where was the money? The inventive Hines had only to touch the magical wand of his ingenuity, but to be supplied. While in prison he had taken the precaution, after planning his escape, to write to a lady friend in a peculiar cypher, which, when handed to the authorities to send through openly, contained nothing contraband, but which, on the young lady receiving, she, according to instructions, sent him some books, in the back of one of which she concealed some "Green Backs," and across the inside wrote her name to indicate the place where the money was deposited! The books came safe to hand and Hines was flush! Going boldly up to the ticket office Hines procured two tickets, while Morgan modestly stood back and adjusted a pair of green goggles over his eyes, which one of the men, having weak eyes, had worn in the prison.

They took their seats into the cars without suspicion. How

their hearts beat until the locomotive whistled to start! Slowly the wheels turn, and they are off! The cars were due in Cincinnati at 7 a. m. At Dalton, Ohio, they were detained one hour. What keen anguish of suspense did they not suffer? They knew that at 5 o'clock, a. m., the convicts would be called, and that their escape would then be discovered, when it would be telegraphed in every direction, consequently the guards would be ready to greet them on their arrival. They were rapidly near the city of abolition hogdom. It was a cold rainy morning. Just as the train entered the suburbs, about half a mile from the depot, the two escaped prisoners went out on the platform and put on the brakes, checking the cars sufficiently to let them jump off. Hines jumped off first, and fell considerably stunned. Morgan followed unhurt. They immediately made towards the river, striking it at Ludlow's ferry.—Here they found a boy with a skiff, who had just ferried across some ladies from Covington. Their trepidation can be imagined. They dared not turn their heads for fear of seeing the guards coming. "Hines," whispered the General, "look and see if any body *is* coming!" The boy was told they wanted to cross, but he desired to wait for more passengers. The General told him he was in a hurry, and promised to pay double fare. The skiff shot out into the stream, they soon reached the Kentucky shore, and breathed free!

CHAPTER VI.

ARRIVAL OF THE FUGITIVES IN KENTUCKY—THEIR GLORIOUS RECEPTION AND DEPARTURE FOR THE INTERIOR—THEIR SUCCESS THROUGH KENTUCKY—GRAND OVATION—CROSSING OF THE CUMBERLAND—DIFFICULTIES OF CROSSING THE TENNESSEE—THE PARTY CUT OFF—HOW MORGAN'S ESCAPE WAS EFFECTED.

The boy had told them the place of residence of a lady friend; thither they bent their steps, and were received with the wildest demonstrations of joy and hospitality. They were afraid to tarry long. Horses were immediately procured for them, and on that day, twenty-eighth of November, they rode to the town of Union, in Boone County, twenty-eight miles from Covington. There they stayed all night and the next day, leaving on the night of the twenty-ninth, with volunteer guides, and traveling

by neighborhood and by roads, passing through Gallatin County, to the Owen County line, where they stopped with a friend, and spent the day of the thirtieth. They resumed their travels at night, passing through New Liberty, crossed the Kentucky river, and at two o'clock, A. M., on the first December, stopped twelve miles the other side of New Castle. Pushing on that day, they arrived at night, eight miles this side of Shelbyville, where they spent the day of the second with their friends, meeting with a glorious reception. At night they departed again, passing through Taylorsville, and reached the vicinity of Bardstown at five o'clock, on the morning of the third. Here they remained over until the night of the fourth, having received a most cordial greeting and unbounded hospitality. Again advancing they passed through glorious old Nelson County, stopping on Rolling Fork. On the fifth they laid over, and at night reached the vicinity of Greensburg, passing between the pickets of the enemy and their base. The fugitives had been joined by four others, and the party now consisted of six. They remained concealed inside of the enemy's pickets during the day of the sixth. Their trip through Kentucky had been one grand ovation, the ladies going wild with joy, and the men offering them everything in their power, showing that the true spirit still breathes in that down trodden State.

On the night of the sixth they procured guides to proceed to Cumberland river, the road being thickly lined with Yankees.—At ten o'clock, A. M., on the seventh, they reached the Cumberland, nine miles below Burksville, having travelled sixty miles that night, and crossed the river in a canoe, swimming their horses, and passing for Federal cavalry. That night they stayed at the house of a good Union friend, who, supposing them to belong to Jacob's cavalry, took the best of care of them. On the eighth they passed into Overton County, Tenn., following in the rear of a large Yankee scouting party, whom they learned were in hot chase after Morgan! The General here learning that a number of escaped prisoners of his command were in the vicinity, a portion being under Captain Ray, he determined to wait until they could be collected, and take them out—for which purpose he laid over until the twelfth of December.

The squad was now increased to forty men under command

of Captain Hines, and crossing a spur of the Cumberland, by way of Crossville, between Sparta and Knoxville, they arrived at Bridge's Ferry, on the Tennessee river, at ten o'clock on the morning of the thirteenth. There being no boat skiff to cross, the party was compelled to fell trees to make a raft. This ferry was within two miles and a half of a Yankee cavalry camp.—By two o'clock, P. M., they had succeeded in crossing twenty-five men and six horses. At this time a cavalry force of the enemy appeared on the north side of the river and fired upon the party who had been engaged making the raft. The enemy succeeded in capturing three or four men, but the others made their escape back into Tennessee. At the same moment the enemy also appeared on the south side of the river, when General Morgan, Hines, and four others, mounted their horses to escape. After riding two miles and a half from the river, Hines rode up to a house for the purpose of procuring a guide, leaving Morgan and the other men in the road. Hines had obtained the guide, when he heard Morgan halloo to him, and soon after a party of cavalry dashed up towards Hines, which at first he took for a party of our men, until they approached so close that escape was impossible. Hines had on a Yankee gun cloth which covered his clothes, and seeing that they took him for an "abolish," he feigned to be a Yankee. The abolish captain riding up, asked, "Who are you?" "One of you," replied Hines.—"Where are the 'Rebs?" asked the captain. "They have just gone down the road; come on and we will catch them," said Hines, riding off in the opposite direction from that taken by Morgan, who, at the time, was near the foot of a hill, and was thus enabled to escape. The party followed Hines, but soon after discovered him to be a true rebel, and taking away his arms, they threatened to hang him for misleading them.

CHAPTER VII.

RE-ARREST OF HINES.—HIS TREATMENT BY A YANKEE OFFICER.—HE REFUSES TO ESCAPE.—HIS GREAT MAGNANIMITY.—HIS CLOSE IMPRISONMENT AT KINGSTON.—HIS REMOVAL TO A FEDERAL CAMP NEAR LOUDON.—HIS BOLD PLAN OF ESCAPE.—ITS SUCCESS.—HIS HARDSHIPS AND FINAL ARRIVAL IN THE CONFEDERATE LINES.

Hines was carried across the river to their camps, and put under guard. He passed off for a private under the name of Bullitt. That night he ate up several letters and private papers, besides the notes of his trip, which would have condemned him, thus making a paper supper, which probably saved his neck. On the evening of the fourteenth, the captain returned from the scout, and reported that the rebels had escaped. He had learned from a citizen that Morgan was one of the party, and suspected Hines of being an escaped prisoner. He charged him with being a Confederate officer and questioned him very closely. In order to gain Hines' confidence and to pump him, he treated him very kindly, and asked him to go to a Union man's house to take supper. On leaving the house about nine, P. M., which was half a mile from the camps, after getting off about ten steps, the "Yank" remembered he had left his shawl, and went back. The night was dark, and Hines struggled with himself to gain his consent to escape, but considering the confidence and kindness of the officer, he concluded to wait until he got out of his hands. Hines remained in camp, under guard, during the night of the fourteenth, and the next morning was sent to Kingston, with an escort of ten men, where he was placed in jail, and kept for five days, without fire and almost without food. Here he found three of his comrades, who had been captured on the other side of the river. On the twentieth, he and his three companions, William and Robert Church, and Smith of the Third Kentucky cavalry, were sent to the camp of the Third Yankee Kentucky infantry, opposite Loudon, on the Tennessee river, nineteen miles from Kingston. The prisoners were confined in a small house in the centre of the camp, the timber being cut down in every direction for half a mile, and there being but one path leading to the mountain from the camp, which was closely guarded. That night it was bright moonlight, but the moon went down just before day. Hines and his companions, by agreement, under pretense of being very cold, dressed them-

selves at the time, and sat down with the guards around the fire. At a given signal his comrades arose and stood around the fire, while Hines, keeping one of the guards busily engaged talking, quietly approached the door unobserved, raised the latch, giving the wink at the same time to his friends. Then, turning suddenly, he threw the door wide open, and said with great composure, "Gentlemen, we have remained here long enough, it is time we were going." The guards were struck dumb with surprise, and thought it a joke. But before they could recover their senses, Hines flew past the guards in front of the house, and ran like a deer for the woods. He heard a struggle for a moment near the house, and then a volley of Minie balls whizzed by him. His three comrades must have been caught. The enemy pursued him to the woods, and up the mountain for three-quarters of a mile, when they lost his track. Hines traveled six miles across the mountains that morning, and lay concealed during the day. At night he approached a house in a valley, and finding the occupant a Unionist, he passed himself off as a Yankee Government agent. In conversing about the Rebels, the Unionist said there were a few still lurking about, but as the river was well guarded, there were but few places they could cross at, and mentioned one place five miles below Loudon, where he said a Rebel lived who kept a canoe. Hines made an excuse to go on that night, and proceeded to the ferry indicated, where he found the canoe and crossed the river. He soon found many friends on the south side of the river to aid him, and traveling altogether by night till out of danger, he finally arrived at Dalton, Georgia, on the evening of the twenty-ninth of December, having walked the whole distance from Loudon.

General Morgan escaped by way of Athens, Tennessee, to Madisonville, and thence across the mountains of North Carolina, coming in at Columbia, South Carolina, and, as we all know, is now safe in Richmond. It will not be long before he re-organizes his command, and is again in the saddle, when the infidel abolitionists may well tremble for their scalps.

Thus ends the narrative of one of the most thrilling adventures of this war, and which teaches us that we have no mercy to expect from the hands of the Yankees. Indeed, had the black flag been raised at the commencement of the revolution, and a

stern, undeviating policy of retaliation been pursued, the abolitionists would now have scarcely had an army in the field, and ere this, peace might have been proclaimed.

